

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
18 March 2004 (18.03.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2004/023014 A3**

- (51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **E21B 19/16**
- (21) International Application Number: **PCT/US2003/025716**
- (22) International Filing Date: 18 August 2003 (18.08.2003)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:  
60/412,371 9 September 2002 (09.09.2002) US
- (71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): ENVIRONMENTAL GLOBAL TECHNOLOGY [US/US]; 16200 A Park Row, Houston, TX 77084 (US).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (*for US only*): COSTA, Scott [US/US]; 2011 Willow Point, Kingwood, TX 77330 (US). RING, Lev [US/US]; 14126 Heatherhill Place, Houston, TX 77077 (US). MENCHACA, Jose [US/US]; 9800 Pagewood Lane, Number 210, Houston, TX 77042 (US).
- (74) Agent: MATTINLY, Todd; Haynes and Boone, LLP, 1000 Louisiana, Suite 4300, Houston, TX 77002-5012 (US).
- (81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AI, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Declaration under Rule 4.17:

— *of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv)) for US only*

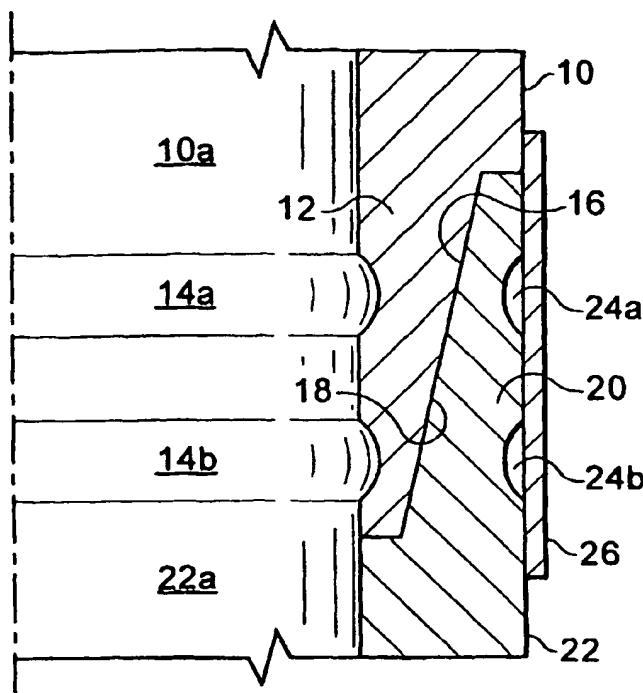
Published:

— *with international search report*  
— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

*[Continued on next page]*

(54) Title: THREADED CONNECTION FOR EXPANDABLE TUBULARS

WO 2004/023014 A3



(57) Abstract: A threaded connection for expandable tubulars. There is a first tubular (10) with external threads (16) and a second tubular (22) with matching internal threads. Each of these tubulars has stress concentration grooves (14a, 14b, 24a, 24b). There is a sleeve (26) that goes over the connection between the threaded portions of the tubulars. After connection these tubulars can be expanded down-hole in a wellbore.



(88) Date of publication of the international search report:  
3 March 2005

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

(15) Information about Correction:

Previous Correction:  
see PCT Gazette No. 41/2004 of 7 October 2004, Section II

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/25716

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**

IPC(7) : E21B 19/16  
 US CL : 166/380, 207; 285/333

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
 U.S. : 166/380, 207, 381, 382, 206; 285/333, 334; 403/297

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)  
 Please See Continuation Sheet

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages                           | Relevant to claim No.             |
|------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| X          | US 5,924,745 A (Campbell) 20 July 1999 (20.07.1999), figures 3 and 4, column 3, lines 9 - column 4, line 27. | 1, 3-5, 7-9, 11, 12,<br>15, 17-21 |
| Y          | SU 1,756,531 A (KRYZHANOVSKII et al) 28 March 1990 (28.03.1990), Figure 1, abstract.                         | 1, 3-5, 7-9, 11, 12,<br>15, 17-21 |
| Y          | WO 99/23354 (METCALFE) 14 May 1999 (14.05.1999), figure 5, page 11 lines 23-28.                              | 1, 3-5, 7-9, 11, 12,<br>15, 17-21 |
| A, E       | US 6,622,797 B2 (SIVLEY IV) 23 September 2003 (23.09.2003), whole document.                                  | 1-12, 15-21                       |
| A, E       | US 6,607,220 B2 (SIVLEY, IV) 19 August 2003 (19.08.2003), whole document.                                    | 1-12, 15-21                       |
| A, P       | US 6,564,875 B1 (BULLOCK) 20 May 2003 (20.05.2003), whole document.  | 1-12, 15-21                       |
| A          | US 2002/0108756 A1 (HARRALL et al) 15 August 2002 (15.06.2002), whole document.                              | 1-12, 15-21                       |
| A          | US 6,322,109 B1 (CAMPBELL et al) 27 November 2001 (27.11.2001), whole document.                              | 1-12, 15-21                       |
| A          | US 6,085,838 A (VERCAEMER et al) 11 July 2000 (11.07.2000), whole document.                                  | 1-12, 15-21                       |

|                          |  |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | See patent family annex.   |
| *                        | Special categories of cited documents:   | "T"                      | later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention  |
| "A"                      | document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance   | "X"                      | document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone   |
| "E"                      | earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date  | "Y"                      | document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art |
| "L"                      | document which may throw doubt on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) | "&"                      | document member of the same patent family  |
| "O"                      | document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means   |                          |  |
| "P"                      | document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed   |                          |  |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Date of the actual completion of the international search   | Date of mailing of the international search report  |
| 12 March 2004 (12.03.2004)  | 13 JAN 2005   |
| Name and mailing address of the ISA/US<br>Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US<br>Commissioner for Patents<br>P.O. Box 1450<br>Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450<br>Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230 | Authorized officer<br>David J. Bagnell <i>J. J. Bagnell</i><br>Telephone No. (703) 308-1113 |

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

PCT/US03/25716

**Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:**  
Derwent, JPO, EPO

Terms: Thread, Stress concentrator, stress, expand/expanding, tubular, casing

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

CORRECTED VERSION

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
18 March 2004 (18.03.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
WO 2004/023014 A3

- (51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: E21B 19/16 (74) Agent: MATTINGLY, Todd; Haynes and Boone, LLP, 1000 Louisiana, Suite 4300, Houston, TX 77002-5012 (US).
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/US2003/025716 (81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (22) International Filing Date: 18 August 2003 (18.08.2003) (84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- (25) Filing Language: English (26) Publication Language: English (30) Priority Data: 60/412,371 20 September 2002 (20.09.2002) US (71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): ENVIRONMENTAL GLOBAL TECHNOLOGY [US/US]; 16200 A Park Row, Houston, TX 77084 (US). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (*for US only*): COSTA, Scott [US/US]; 2011 Willow Point, Kingwood, TX 77330 (US). RING, Lev [US/US]; 14126 Heatherhill Place, Houston, TX 77077 (US). MENCHACA, Jose [US/US]; 9800 Pagewood Lane, Number 210, Houston, TX 77042 (US).

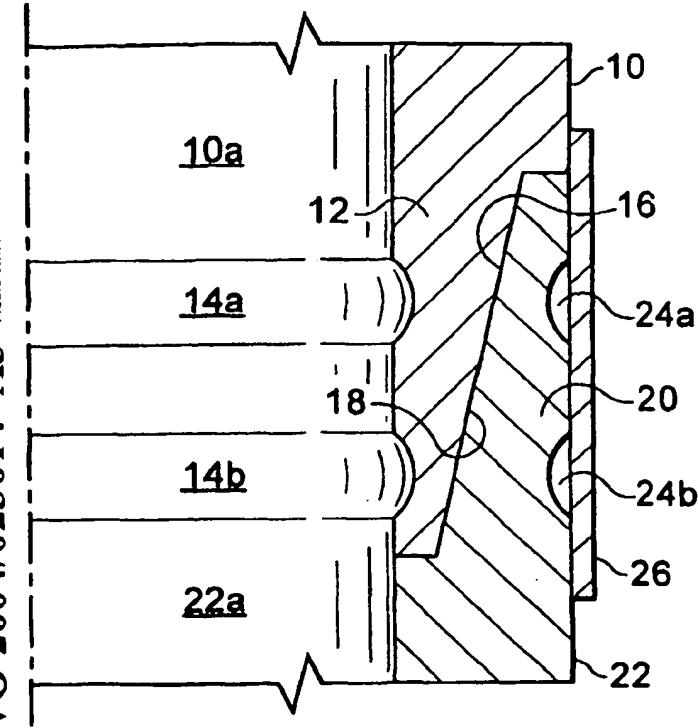
Declaration under Rule 4.17:

— *of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv)) for US only*

*[Continued on next page]*

(54) Title: THREADED CONNECTION FOR EXPANDABLE TUBULARS

WO 2004/023014 A3



(57) Abstract: A threaded connection for expandable tubulars. There is a first tubular (10) with external threads (16) and a second tubular (22) with matching internal threads. Each of these tubulars has stress concentration grooves (14a, 14b, 24a, 24b). There is a sleeve (26) that goes over the connection between the threaded portions of the tubulars. After connection these tubulars can be expanded downhole in a wellbore.



**Published:**

— *with international search report*

**(88) Date of publication of the international search report:**

3 March 2005

**(48) Date of publication of this corrected version:**

19 May 2005

**(15) Information about Corrections:**

see PCT Gazette No. 20/2005 of 19 May 2005, Section II

**Previous Correction:**

see PCT Gazette No. 41/2004 of 7 October 2004, Section II

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
18 March 2004 (18.03.2004)

PCT

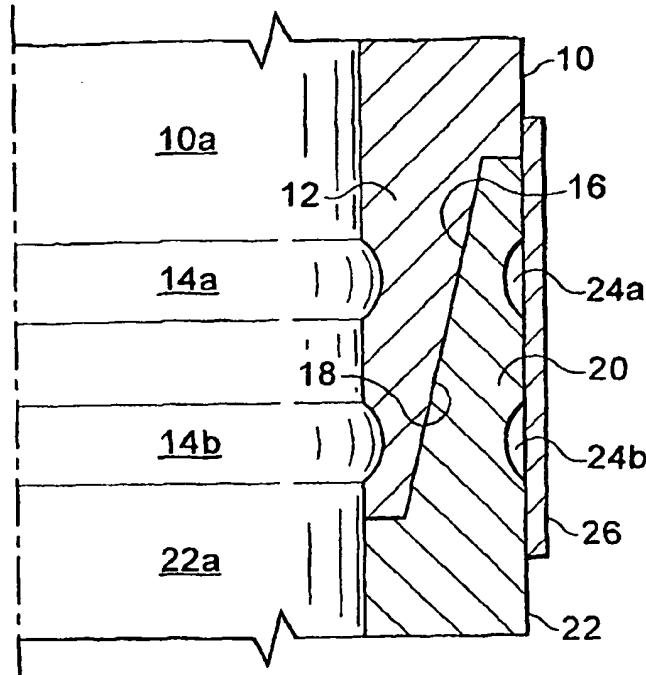
(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2004/023014 A3**

- (51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **E21B 19/16**
- (21) International Application Number:  
**PCT/US2003/025716**
- (22) International Filing Date: 18 August 2003 (18.08.2003)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:  
60/412,371 20 September 2002 (20.09.2002) US
- (71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): ENVIRONMENTAL GLOBAL TECHNOLOGY [US/US]; 16200 A Park Row, Houston, TX 77084 (US).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (*for US only*): COSTA, Scott [US/US]; 2011 Willow Point, Kingwood, TX 77330 (US). RING, Lev [US/US]; 14126 Heatherhill Place, Houston, TX 77077 (US). MENCHACA, Jose [US/US]; 9800 Pagewood Lane, Number 210, Houston, TX 77042 (US).
- (74) Agent: MATTINGLY, Todd; Haynes and Boone, LLP, 901 Main Street, Suite 3100, Dallas, TX 75202 (US).
- (81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SI, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CI, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- Declaration under Rule 4.17:  
— *of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv)) for US only*
- Published:  
— *with international search report*  
— *with amended claims*
- (88) Date of publication of the international search report:  
3 March 2005

*[Continued on next page]*

(54) Title: THREADED CONNECTION FOR EXPANDABLE TUBULARS

WO 2004/023014 A3



(57) Abstract: A threaded connection for expandable tubulars. There is a first tubular (10) with external threads (16) and a second tubular (22) with matching internal threads. Each of these tubulars has stress concentration grooves (14a, 14b, 24a, 24b). There is a sleeve (26) that goes over the connection between the threaded portions of the tubulars. After connection these tubulars can be expanded downhole in a wellbore.



Date of publication of the amended claims:  
15 September 2005

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

(15) Information about Corrections:

Previous Corrections:

see PCT Gazette No. 20/2005 of 19 May 2005, Section II  
see PCT Gazette No. 41/2004 of 7 October 2004, Section II

**AMENDED CLAIMS**

received by the International Bureau on 07 March 2005 :  
claims 1 to 21 are unchanged, claims 22 to 48 are new

1. An assembly, comprising:  
a first tubular member comprising external threads; and  
a second tubular member comprising internal threads coupled to the external threads of  
the first tubular member;  
wherein at least one of the first and second tubular members define one or more stress  
concentrators.
2. The assembly of claim 1, further comprising:  
an external sleeve coupled to and overlapping with the ends of the first and second  
tubular members.
3. The assembly of claim 1, wherein one or more of the stress concentrators comprise  
surface grooves formed in the surfaces of at least one of the first and second tubular members.
4. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the stress concentrators are defined above the internal  
and external threads of the first and second tubular members.
5. A method for forming a wellbore casing, comprising:  
positioning the assembly of claim 1 within a borehole that traverses a subterranean  
formation; and  
radially expanding and plastically deforming the assembly within the borehole.
6. A method for forming a wellbore casing, comprising:  
positioning the assembly of claim 2 within a borehole that traverses a subterranean  
formation; and  
radially expanding and plastically deforming the assembly within the borehole.
7. A method for forming a wellbore casing, comprising:  
positioning the assembly of claim 3 within a borehole that traverses a subterranean  
formation; and  
radially expanding and plastically deforming the assembly within the borehole.
8. A method for forming a wellbore casing, comprising:  
positioning the assembly of claim 4 within a borehole that traverses a subterranean  
formation; and  
radially expanding and plastically deforming the assembly within the borehole.

9. An apparatus, comprising:  
a wellbore that traverses a subterranean formation; and  
a wellbore casing positioned within and coupled to the wellbore;  
wherein the wellbore casing is coupled to the wellbore by a process comprising:  
positioning the assembly of claim 1 within the wellbore; and  
radially expanding and plastically deforming the assembly within the wellbore.
10. An apparatus, comprising:  
a wellbore that traverses a subterranean formation; and  
a wellbore casing positioned within and coupled to the wellbore;  
wherein the wellbore casing is coupled to the wellbore by a process comprising:  
positioning the assembly of claim 2 within the wellbore; and  
radially expanding and plastically deforming the assembly within the wellbore.
11. An apparatus, comprising:  
a wellbore that traverses a subterranean formation; and  
a wellbore casing positioned within and coupled to the wellbore;  
wherein the wellbore casing is coupled to the wellbore by a process comprising:  
positioning the assembly of claim 3 within the wellbore; and  
radially expanding and plastically deforming the assembly within the wellbore.
12. An apparatus, comprising:  
a wellbore that traverses a subterranean formation; and  
a wellbore casing positioned within and coupled to the wellbore;  
wherein the wellbore casing is coupled to the wellbore by a process comprising:  
positioning the assembly of claim 4 within the wellbore; and  
radially expanding and plastically deforming the assembly within the wellbore.
15. A system for forming a wellbore casing, comprising:  
means for positioning the assembly of claim 1 within a borehole that traverses a subterranean formation; and  
means for radially expanding and plastically deforming the assembly within the borehole.
16. A system for forming a wellbore casing, comprising:  
means for positioning the assembly of claim 2 within a borehole that traverses a subterranean formation; and

- means for radially expanding and plastically deforming the assembly within the borehole.
17. A system for forming a wellbore casing, comprising:  
means for positioning the assembly of claim 3 within a borehole that traverses a subterranean formation; and  
means for radially expanding and plastically deforming the assembly within the borehole.
18. A system for forming a wellbore casing, comprising:  
means for positioning the assembly of claim 4 within a borehole that traverses a subterranean formation; and  
means for radially expanding and plastically deforming the assembly within the borehole.
19. A method of providing a fluid tight seal between a pair of overlapping tubular members, comprising:  
forming one or more stress concentrators within at least one of the tubular members;  
and  
radially expanding and plastically deforming the tubular members.
20. The method of claim 19, wherein the tubular members are threadably coupled; and  
wherein the stress concentrators are formed above the threaded coupling.
21. The method of claim 19, wherein the stress concentrators comprise surface grooves formed in at least one of the tubular members.
22. An assembly, comprising:  
a first tubular member comprising external threads;  
a second tubular member comprising internal threads coupled to the external threads of the first tubular member; and  
an external sleeve coupled to and overlapping with the ends of the first and second tubular members;  
wherein at least one of the first and second tubular members define one or more stress concentrators.
23. The assembly of claim 22, wherein one or more of the stress concentrators comprise surface grooves formed in the surfaces of at least one of the first and second tubular members.
24. The assembly of claim 22, wherein the stress concentrators are defined above the

internal and external threads of the first and second tubular members.

25. A method for forming a wellbore casing, comprising:  
positioning an assembly within a borehole that traverses a subterranean formation; and  
radially expanding and plastically deforming the assembly within the borehole;  
wherein the assembly comprises:  
a first tubular member comprising external threads;  
a second tubular member comprising internal threads coupled to the external threads of  
the first tubular member; and  
an external sleeve coupled to and overlapping with the ends of the first and second  
tubular members;  
wherein at least one of the first and second tubular members define one or more stress  
concentrators.
26. An apparatus, comprising:  
a wellbore that traverses a subterranean formation; and  
a wellbore casing positioned within and coupled to the wellbore;  
wherein the wellbore casing is coupled to the wellbore by a process comprising:  
positioning an assembly within a borehole that traverses a subterranean formation; and  
radially expanding and plastically deforming the assembly within the borehole;  
wherein the assembly comprises:  
a first tubular member comprising external threads;  
a second tubular member comprising internal threads coupled to the external threads of  
the first tubular member; and  
an external sleeve coupled to and overlapping with the ends of the first and second  
tubular members;  
wherein at least one of the first and second tubular members define one or more stress  
concentrators.
27. A system for forming a wellbore casing, comprising:  
means for positioning an assembly within a borehole that traverses a subterranean  
formation; and  
means for radially expanding and plastically deforming the assembly within the borehole;  
wherein the assembly comprises:  
a first tubular member comprising external threads;  
a second tubular member comprising internal threads coupled to the external threads of  
the first tubular member; and

- an external sleeve coupled to and overlapping with the ends of the first and second tubular members;  
wherein at least one of the first and second tubular members define one or more stress concentrators.
28. An assembly, comprising:  
a first tubular member comprising external threads; and  
a second tubular member comprising internal threads coupled to the external threads of the first tubular member;  
wherein the first and second tubular members each define one or more stress concentrators.
29. The assembly of claim 28, further comprising:  
an external sleeve coupled to and overlapping with the ends of the first and second tubular members.
30. The assembly of claim 28, wherein one or more of the stress concentrators comprise surface grooves formed in the surfaces of at least one of the first and second tubular members.
31. The assembly of claim 28, wherein the stress concentrators are defined above the internal and external threads of the first and second tubular members.
32. A method for forming a wellbore casing, comprising:  
positioning the assembly of claim 28 within a borehole that traverses a subterranean formation; and  
radially expanding and plastically deforming the assembly within the borehole.
33. A method for forming a wellbore casing, comprising:  
positioning the assembly of claim 29 within a borehole that traverses a subterranean formation; and  
radially expanding and plastically deforming the assembly within the borehole.
34. A method for forming a wellbore casing, comprising:  
positioning the assembly of claim 30 within a borehole that traverses a subterranean formation; and  
radially expanding and plastically deforming the assembly within the borehole.

35. A method for forming a wellbore casing, comprising:  
positioning the assembly of claim 31 within a borehole that traverses a subterranean formation; and  
radially expanding and plastically deforming the assembly within the borehole.
36. An apparatus, comprising:  
a wellbore that traverses a subterranean formation; and  
a wellbore casing positioned within and coupled to the wellbore;  
wherein the wellbore casing is coupled to the wellbore by a process comprising:  
positioning the assembly of claim 28 within the wellbore; and  
radially expanding and plastically deforming the assembly within the wellbore.
37. An apparatus, comprising:  
a wellbore that traverses a subterranean formation; and  
a wellbore casing positioned within and coupled to the wellbore;  
wherein the wellbore casing is coupled to the wellbore by a process comprising:  
positioning the assembly of claim 29 within the wellbore; and  
radially expanding and plastically deforming the assembly within the wellbore.
38. An apparatus, comprising:  
a wellbore that traverses a subterranean formation; and  
a wellbore casing positioned within and coupled to the wellbore;  
wherein the wellbore casing is coupled to the wellbore by a process comprising:  
positioning the assembly of claim 30 within the wellbore; and  
radially expanding and plastically deforming the assembly within the wellbore.
39. An apparatus, comprising:  
a wellbore that traverses a subterranean formation; and  
a wellbore casing positioned within and coupled to the wellbore;  
wherein the wellbore casing is coupled to the wellbore by a process comprising:  
positioning the assembly of claim 31 within the wellbore; and  
radially expanding and plastically deforming the assembly within the wellbore.
40. A system for forming a wellbore casing, comprising:  
means for positioning the assembly of claim 28 within a borehole that traverses a subterranean formation; and  
means for radially expanding and plastically deforming the assembly within the borehole.

41. A system for forming a wellbore casing, comprising:
  - means for positioning the assembly of claim 29 within a borehole that traverses a subterranean formation; and
  - means for radially expanding and plastically deforming the assembly within the borehole.
42. A system for forming a wellbore casing, comprising:
  - means for positioning the assembly of claim 30 within a borehole that traverses a subterranean formation; and
  - means for radially expanding and plastically deforming the assembly within the borehole.
43. A system for forming a wellbore casing, comprising:
  - means for positioning the assembly of claim 31 within a borehole that traverses a subterranean formation; and
  - means for radially expanding and plastically deforming the assembly within the borehole.
44. A method of providing a fluid tight seal between a pair of overlapping tubular members, comprising:
  - forming one or more stress concentrators within each of the tubular members; and
  - radially expanding and plastically deforming the tubular members.
45. The method of claim 44, wherein the tubular members are threadably coupled; and wherein the stress concentrators are formed above the threaded coupling.
46. The method of claim 44, wherein the stress concentrators comprise surface grooves formed in at least one of the tubular members.
47. A method of providing a fluid tight seal between a pair of overlapping tubular members, comprising:
  - concentrating compressive stresses onto the overlapping portions of the tubular members; and
  - radially expanding and plastically deforming the tubular members.
48. The method of claim 47, wherein the tubular members are threadably coupled; and wherein the compressive stresses are concentrated onto the threaded coupling during the radial expansion and plastic deformation.